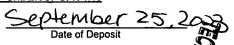


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1615

KIS ET AL.

Examiner: Joynes, Robert M

APPLICATION NO: 10/016,361 FILED: DECEMBER 10, 2001

FOR: AUTOCLAVABLE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

CONTAINING A CHELATING AGENT

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of March 26, 2003 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on June 26, 2003. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$930 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis Corporate Intellectual Property One Health Plaza, Building 430 East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Date: September 25, 2003

Susan Hess

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 37,350

Phone No. (862) 778-7859